

I H E

C A S E

Of the P O O R

Orphans of London:

Humbly Presented to the Lords *Spiritual* and *Temporal*,
Assembled in *Parliament*.

TH E said poor *Orphans*, by their Petition to this Honourable House, most humbly desire, That the Bill in this House for preventing Buying and Selling Places and Offices, may pass without Excepting the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of *London* therein; Or, That they may have leave to lay before this Honourable House their Grievances, by the Sales and Extravagant Allowances (by reason thereof) made to such Officers as Collect and Manage the Revenues given them by a late Act of Parliament made for their Relief, and that they may have the Aid of this Honourable House to send for Persons, Books and Papers, the more plainly to make out the same.

Now, Forasmuch as by the said Act for Relief of the said *Orphans*, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen are Intrusted to Appoint Officers, to Collect and Manage the Revenues so given; It is humbly Conceived, the Parliament did not intend the Lord Mayor should sell those Officers their Places, which hath been done.

For, *First*, Such Sales tend to the giving greater Allowances to such Officers, and is already done. *viz.* To some Officers five times, to others ten times more than is reasonable, or would be done for by others.

II. It tends to Encourage Fraudulent diverting and Concealment of the said Revenues, which hath already been practis'd to the Poor *Orphans* great damage.

III. It Emboldens those Officers to make delays in their Offices, so that they may the more easily obtain Unallowed and Unreasonable Gratifications for dispatch of poor *Orphans* Affairs, which is often practis'd.

IV. By Purchase of their Offices, the Collectors and Accountants for the *Orphans* Revenues take their liberty to delay their Payments, and to make up their Accounts to the *Orphans* great loss, by dark, private Managements between the Buyers and Sellers.

V. It tends (for the sake of Lucre) to the multiplying needless Offices, and was last Year done in setting up Two Governours and Twelve Rulers for Coal-heaving, whereby the *Orphans* were Damaged in their Revenue some Hundred Pounds; besides their further damage, in Common with others, by the Scarcity and High-price of *Coals*, above 5 s. in every Chaldron.

VI. It tends to the Garbling of the Ancient Legal Oaths, establish'd to prevent Corruption in Officers, as may be proved in several of the said Oaths.

VII. The poor *Orphans* for some time after the making of the Act of Parliament for their Relief, could dispose of their Hundred Pound, for Seventy Pound; but since it being known that these Offices were Sold, and such Extravagant Allowances made to them that bought them, and the Practices of the Officers thereupon so dilatory, and Dreading larger Allowances may hereafter be given them, as hath lately been done, double to what they were before, some of them have been necessitated to sell their Hundred Pound for Forty.

VIII. The Lord Mayor hath no necessity (as is humbly conceived) to raise Money by the Sale of these, or indeed any other Offices or Places for the support of his State and Grandeur, in as much as he hath Incident to his Mayoralty, about Three Thousand Pounds *Per Annum*, as may be made appear.

If it shall seem meet to the Wisdom of this Honourable House, that your Humble Petitioners shall appear again to satisfy your Honours in the Truth of the Premises. They humbly pray that a day may be set them; and that they may have the Order of this Honourable House to send for Persons, Books, and Papers.

